

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

KEENAN ROBERTS
13725 Cambury Drive
#1018
Houston, TX 77014
Plaintiff

v.

THE HARTFORD LIFE AND
ACCIDENT INSURANCE
COMPANY
1515 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
NO.:

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES, the Plaintiff, Keenan Roberts, by and through his Counsel, Pond, Lehocky, LLP, and hereby complains of the above referenced Defendant, The Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company, (hereinafter referred to as "The Hartford"), as follows:

I. STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION:

1. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Honorable Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 1332(e). This Honorable Court has jurisdiction over all issues raising a federal question and this instant matter involves a disability policy issued to the Claimant through his Employer, thus it is governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) 29 U.S.C. § 1011, et seq.

II. VENUE:

2. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction as all actions and occurrences which give rise to the instant action occurred within the jurisdictional boundaries of this Honorable Court. Specifically, under the ERISA statute, venue is proper “in the district where the plan is administered, where the breach took place, or where a defendant resides or may be found.” 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(2). The Defendant can be found within the judicial district of this Honorable Court.

III. FACTS:

3. The Plaintiff, Keenan Roberts, is an adult and competent individual with a physical address of 13725 Cambury Drive, #1018, Houston, TX 77014.

4. The Defendant, The Hartford, under information and belief, is a business entity with a principal place of business located at 1515 Market Street, Philadelphia, 19102 with a corporate headquarters 1 Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06155.

5. The Hartford is a business entity, which issues disability insurance policies and administers same, which are governed by the Employee Retirement Insurance Security Act (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. §1011, et seq.

6. On a date certain, The Hartford, administered a plan for short term disability benefits issued to the Claimant through his employer.

7. The policy of insurance aforementioned provided for an employee

benefit plan as defined and covered under the terms of ERISA.

8. At all times material and relevant hereto, all policy premiums due on behalf of the Plaintiff under said policy were paid.

9. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff performed all obligations required of him under said contract of insurance.

10. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff was a qualified participant in the employee benefit plan provided by The Hartford to the Plaintiff's employer under claim number 34070815.

11. On a date certain, the Plaintiff filed an application for short term disability benefits with The Hartford.

12. By correspondence, The Hartford notified the Plaintiff that she would no longer receive benefits beyond July 7, 2022.

13. The Plaintiff filed an administrative appeal and submitted additional medical records. The information provided was sufficient to establish that the Plaintiff is entitled to long term disability benefits beyond July 7, 2022.

14. By correspondence dated December 20, 2022, the Hartford denied the Plaintiff's appeal and advised him of his right to bring a civil action under ERISA.

15. The Hartford acted arbitrarily, capriciously, in a manner serving only its own business interest and in direct violation of ERISA when it denied the Plaintiff's claim for disability benefits.

16. The Plaintiff is entitled to disability insurance benefits under the aforementioned policy as he has satisfied through medical evidence that he meets the definition of disability and provided sufficient proof of loss to the Hartford.

17. The Plaintiff is entitled to recover the benefits due to him under the aforementioned insurance policy in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §1132.

18. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of The Hartford as herein above more particularly described, the Plaintiff has been caused to incur attorneys' fees in an amount not yet known.

19. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of The Hartford, the Plaintiff has sustained damages in an amount not yet known to the Plaintiff; however, upon information and belief, such damages will approximate the amount of benefits due and owing to the Plaintiff from July 7, 2022 until the present and continuing into the future.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Keenan Roberts, respectfully requests that judgment be entered against The Hartford as follows:

1. Ordering The Hartford to pay to the Plaintiff, Keenan Roberts, short term disability insurance benefits from July 7, 2022 to the present and continuing into the future as provided for in the policy of insurance;
2. Awarding the Plaintiff, Keenan Roberts, prejudgment interest on the award until the date of judgment;

3. Awarding the Plaintiff's attorney's fees, court costs and other reasonable costs incurred for the prosecution of the instant action;
4. Granting such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY:


Michael J. Parker, Esquire

PA Bar ID No.: 93024

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